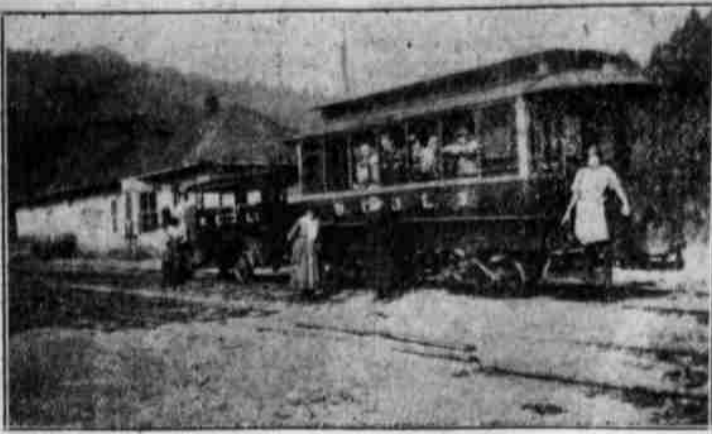


The Mountain Advocate.

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ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR IN ADVANCE



Brush Creek Jitney. All Aboard!

BRUSH CREEK BOOMING JITNEY SERVICE A SUCCESS

When J. G. Marsee and his business friends decided to run a jitney from Artemus on the Cumberland Railroad to Anchor, they did it first as a business enterprise but included in the idea was the thought of service to the people who live up the Brush Creek Valley—one of the finest spots of Knox County which should be seen by every one who is a lover of beauty. Fortunately, the jitney service is such that this may be done easily. As a picnic trip it cannot be surpassed.

However, it is more than a pleasure ground. It is a country of beautiful valleys and massive, timber covered mountains along the lower slopes of which wander many cattle and hogs in considerable numbers pasture the woodlands near the tracks. Around and beyond Artemus lie some of the most fertile looking valleys the splendid crops giving ocular evidence of the richness of the soil.

The owners of this land have fortunes before them in the smaller fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries and grapes while the hill-sides are admirably adapted to the larger fruits. With frost protection—an easy matter with such a quantity of timber available—choice elbertas and apples could easily be raised. This program would embrace spraying, which will kill the fiction that the peach is a short lived tree. At present we are careless of their health conditions. Cowpeas should be added to the crops and would greatly increase the nitrogen content of the soil.

Such valleys extend toward Anchor, the end of the line.

While coal mining is of economic value to the county agriculture is its backbone, as would be found if crops should fail or be greatly curtailed over a series of years. Too much attention cannot be given to the best paying crops. Strawberries make as high as \$600 net per acre in other sections no better adapted than our own but we have not yet started and organized to cash in on the fact. If a few of the farmers along this section would band together to grow strawberries and raspberries the financial result would take their breath away.

Myrick is the first stop on the line and here are to be found the blue gem coal mines where such men as J. M. Myrick, J. W. Alford, justice of the peace, and G. W. Jenkins are helping to make their section one of prosperity and a better neighborhood in which to live. They certainly have most beautiful surroundings from the hand of the Creator to spur them on.

At Bennettsville are two power mines and here Bob and Ross Wheeler are tearing out the heart of the mountain to bring forth warmth and comfort during the time when King Boreas steals away the warmth of the rays of the sun. Other prominent citizens of Bennettsville are T. M. Trooper, merchant and James Trooper, postmaster.

The Consolidated Coal Company has recently taken over the coal working at Trooper, where mine No. 259 is situated, under the able management of V. A. Hayney, its superintendent. Trooper has a number of good citizens such as Charlie McDonald, John and George Collins and W. M. Steward, who are an asset to their section of the county. It's soil is hallowed too by the remains of a namesake who gave his life for freedom and righteousness.

Next comes Warren where mine No. 258 is situated with James Dixon, mine superintendent, while B. W. Jennings has charge of the Consolidated mines in this vicinity. James Orafone is mine foreman, H. U. Sharer is scrip clerk, James A. Gibson has charge of the commissary and Prof. H. C. Humphrey, who hails from Ohio, is teaching the young idea how to shoot—not guns, but knowledge. It was our good fortune to see the children at play and to photograph the group, and a fine, intelligent body of children they are. The school is fortunate in having a man of Prof. Humphrey's calibre for teacher. He is one of those persons we instinctively think of as fine. Other men who are making Warren history in their different spheres bear such good old-fashioned Anglo-Saxon names as Miller, McKeehan, Dismukes, Duff, Davis, Watts, Collett, Wilson, Penland, Micheal, William, Dixon, Morgan, Bateman and Stepp. Our party was delighted with the

courtesy we received at the commissary where we bought a lunch, and a complete one at that, to be eaten under a spreading tree on the hillside.

Warren has quite a number of homes and some of the gardens are beautiful in a wealth of flowers. Our own Dr. B. P. Jones spent five busy years at this camp.

At Tway the Congleton family, who live in Barbourville own a fine coal property high up on the mountain side, judging by the lengthy shoot the shute which has been constructed.

Finally Anchor, which means where you stop. Here, where homes are perched on the sides and tops of the hills, Dr. Leslie Logan once drew the breath of life and it must have agreed with him. Lincoln McKeehan and W. W. Dalton run a

miners living in Artemus; the second trip is after the arrival of the short dog and the third in time for the miners to get home for supper. One of the best features of the jitney service is the courtesy of the management and driver in stopping wherever passengers wish to get on or off, one which makes the service equal to that of the city electric tram in convenience to its patrons. In fact, Mr. Marsee's whole attitude is to serve the public which has the whole hearted sympathy of J. R. Campbell, of the Cumberland Railroad.

The little town of Artemus is a good business spot and its people are very comfortably fixed. It has a surprising number of business houses, indicating that there is plenty of money in circulation there. If it ever takes up the small



Where Beauty Meets the Eye at Every Turn

most up-to-date company commissary. Enquiries elicited the fact that prices are very reasonable and no attempt is made to gouge the miners. This appears to be true of all the commissaries along the line. All the managers are most courteous and give one a real Kentucky welcome.

This mine is Consolidated No. 260, W. W. Dalton, superintendent.

Among the progressive citizens of Anchor are Jim Lee, Josh Hamilton, John Woolum, John Engle, George Powers and Jim Runyons.

Three trips a day are made by the jitney bus which, with its trailer, is capable of carrying a big load of passengers. In the early morning it makes a trip for the benefit of

fruit growing to which its valleys are so well adapted. Its spending capacity will be largely increased. It boasts as good citizens as may be found anywhere and is noticeably absent from the serious crime list. That it believes in education is evidenced by its excellent schools with 215 scholars whose teachers are the best obtainable.

Descendants of hardy progenitors, men and women who dared to face hardships that would have appalled less heroic souls, the people who live along this line are finding life not only more tolerable than did those who blazed the way for them, but are really prospering. Blood will tell and, after all, they

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A REPLY

Ex-County Superintendent E. B. Hemphill, of Knox County, Replies To The Auditor's Report of July 22, 1922.

I became County Superintendent of Knox County schools January 1st 1918, resigned to take effect May 1st, 1922, serving four years and four months.

My first settlement was made for one and one half years, including six months of W. W. Evans' last year, from July 1917 to January 1918; the other settlements were made annually until the year of 1922 which required monthly statements and settlements under the new law with both the County Board of Education and the Department of Education at Frankfort.

During my term of office six different Auditors have gone over the books and records, the notes, checks and vouchers have been carried from office to office and from Clerk's office to the hotel; consequently I am sure some of them have been misplaced and for this reason Mr. Threlkeld did not find what he should have had to make a complete report.

I am sure I can and will make proper and satisfactory settlement with the Knox County Board of Education. I do not owe the Knox County Board of Education \$10-277.17 as might be inferred from the Auditor's reports. I might state just here that I have the highest respect for Mr. Threlkeld as a gentleman and accountant. I desire to explain a few statements made in Mr. Threlkeld's report in justice to myself and friends, yet I don't desire to be antagonistic.

Under my administration the Knox County Board of Education built quite a number of school houses, some very expensive modern brick. All of these were let by contract to the lowest bidder after having been properly advertised and were erected according to plans and specifications given by the state department at Frankfort. I am sure

Mr. Threlkeld did not find these contracts and specifications while making his report.

We also organized and held a school fair each year with considerable expense to the County Board of Education, but those who saw the exhibits together with the twenty-five hundred children who took part in the exercises at the county seat, will agree that from an agricultural and educational standpoint the money was well spent. The dictionary and holder spoken of in the report were given as a prize in the school fair and were won by Barbourville Graded School and can be found in possession of that school to-day.

The check for \$1,500.00 given me by Mr. B. P. Walker, Sheriff, was placed in the Middlesboro bank and the funds for the same amount were afterwards placed to the credit of the Knox County Board of Education in the Barbourville bank.

The typewriters bought were paid for by the teachers who received them out of their salary and the County Board of Education received credit for same.

The County Board of Education paid the Central School Supply Company of Louisville, Ky., quite a sum of money for school supplies as that company's books will show. I have statements and receipts showing that I paid them \$5,858.16.

NOONDAY DINNER

Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Hawn were dinner hosts on Thursday at mid-day to Congressman J. M. Robison and family, of Washington, and Judge F. D. Sampson and family.

DINNER PARTY

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Heidrick were hosts on Tuesday evening to the following guests at a pleasant dinner and evening spent in their home: Judge F. D. Sampson, of the Court of Appeals, Frankfort, and Mrs. Sampson, Congressman J. M. Robison, of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Robison, Judge S. B. Dishman and Mrs. Dishman.

I don't remember at this time a check for \$100 spoken of in the report being signed by Mr. Hatton. I paid at one time to Mr. Hatton a check of \$1,000.00 same having been given me by Mr. R. P. Black, Sheriff of Knox County. I find that I don't get credit for this in my settlement. I have made an investigation and have been unable to find the check altho Mr. R. P. Black has it among his checks. I don't say that Mr. Hatton did sign or did not sign any checks. Mr. Hatton is an honorable gentleman and my friend and I am willing for him to pass on any business proposition where I am concerned.

In regard to the transfer of money from bank to bank that was a transfer of money from the county funds to the state funds or the state funds to the county funds, as under the old law we had two funds whereas, under the new law, we have only one fund.

Knox County Board of Education gave Rathon & Scent a draft for lumber, \$132.60. When draft became due the bank charged same to the account of the County Board of Education. No check was given to cover that amount, a slip was given with the other checks showing this fact—as the bank's books will show.

Notes to John A. Black and others—I haven't the notes before me and was unable to find them for the State Auditor while he was working on this report altho I remember that the County Board of Education gave its note to Mr. A. J. Croley for about \$1,600.00 during W. W. Evans' term of office; Mr. Croley traded same to John A. Black after being held with interest for some five or six years. I do not remember the exact time the note was presented to the Board of Education under my administration and paid with its interest. I am sure this is the note referred to in the report, the same being charged to me, which of course has been paid, yet I do not get any credit for it.

Horse, buggy, etc.—These were bought upon the orders of the County Board of Education, used as directed by them, disposed of at some little loss upon the cost, and the county given credit on their account for same. It is true the County Board of Education paid out considerable funds for an agricultural agent, over my protest, which of course might have been technically wrong under the law but of course the money was well spent. It is also true that the minutes of the Knox County Board of Education were not specific enough in many things, yet in general terms the orders on their books guaranteed and gave sanction to every check written by me as the county superintendent. It is also true that an order might have been placed on the County Board order book and, by the act of the County Board made null and void at the next meeting of the Board, or possibly there may be ink marks across some of these orders as the report states. While this may not look so well on the books, I don't consider

it a criminal act. Also, the year and days may not have been recorded when a vote was taken by the Board upon some of these orders, yet I don't remember at any time under old Board that they didn't agree as a whole.

The auditor's report says that J. E. Leger received \$50 and \$80 for teaching same month in two districts. Possibly this is true as very often one teacher would teach a term in one district and also teach a term in another district that had been begun by another teacher who failed to finish the term.

Also Mr. Sipples may have received pay for one of these districts for he taught in the mining camp at Trooper, Ky., where we had three teachers. To allow teachers to give orders to the banks or to individuals for their salary when due I must admit not good policy because it puts double work on the superintendent and might make a confusion yet I allowed the teachers to do this because they often needed funds with which to pay their board and other necessary expenses before their salary became due in October of each year.

Help in the Office.—Arrangements were made with the Knox County Board of Education for office help for short periods only, as the records will show. Also, as the records will show, I agreed and did the work of a school supervisor as well as superintended the building and repairing of the school houses and was paid extra for this service. The County Board of Education paid for the printing of all stationery, stamps, etc., used in the office. They did not pay for the fuel, light, janitor service or hotel bills, yet I am quite sure all the schools cannot be visited in one day as the report states. I am quite sure it will take at least one month to visit and supervise all the schools in the county one time.

The Library.—The books and the book cases added to the Knox County library are there to speak for themselves.

At any time the County Board of Education may desire I am able and willing to explain the difference in the balance shown by the bank of \$248.71 and the financial report balance of \$2,652.94. I am quite sure in order to get at the proper starting point to audit the County Board's books for the four years beginning January 1st, 1918, it is very necessary that the books be audited for the eight years preceding this period.

In conclusion I desire to say in behalf of the County Board of Education who served under me, considering the war period in which we served with its high cost of living, together with the amount of houses built, repaired and equipped, wells dug etc., they are to be praised rather than censured. I am ready and willing to meet the Knox County Board of Education and settle with them at any time, with justice to all parties concerned.

Respectfully,
E. B. HEMPHILL.

What A Check Means

When you receive a check it indicates that the person who signed it realizes the safety and convenience of paying out money in that safe and convenient way.

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A Savings Account With \$1 or More

You can have TWO IN ONE Victory Savings account or the \$1,000 Insured account.

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